

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection in the Office Action, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-5, as amended, remain pending herein. Claims 6-10 have been added hereby, with support for these new claims being found in the specification at least at page 3, lines 25-29, and FIG. 2, as well as original claims 2-5.

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-4 recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Chowdhury *et al.* (U.S. Pat. Appln. Pub. 2006/0044468) ("Chowdhury"). Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection for the reasons indicated herein below.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is a national stage application of PCT/IB2004/050306 filed March 22, 2004, which claimed priority under from EP 03290802.2 filed March 28, 2003. A certified copy of the EP priority application shows as being entered into PAIR on September 23, 2005.

As disclosed in MPEP 1893.03(b) (The Filing Date of a U.S. National Stage Application [R-5]):

An international application designating the U.S. has two stages (international and national) with the filing date being the same in both stages. Often the date of entry into the national stage is confused with the filing date. It should be borne in mind that the filing date of the international stage application is also the filing date for the national stage application. Specifically, 35 U.S.C. 363, provides that

An international application designating the United States shall have the effect, from its international filing date under

Article 11 of the treaty, of a national application for patent regularly filed in the Patent and Trademark Office except as otherwise provided in section 102(e) of this title.

Applicant notes that the 102(e) provision, as amended by the AIPA has to do use of a particular application's availability as a reference against other applicants.

Accordingly, as the filing date of Chowdhury is January 24, 2005, the Applicant's international filing date (as well as the older EP priority date) render Chowdhury as an ineffective reference against any claims of the present application.

Applicant has added new independent claim 6, which recites in part:

a synchronization slicer for separating a vertical synchronization signal from a Composite Video Broadcast Signal (CVBS) signal;

means for adjusting the step AGC amplifier only during a vertical synchronization interval output pulse period of the synchronization slicer;

wherein a width of the vertical synchronization signal output from the synchronization slicer is adjusted to control a number of pulses output to the means for adjusting the AGC amplifier

Support for the above amend is found in the specification at least at page 3, lines 25-29, and FIG. 2.

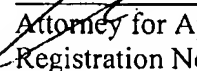
Accordingly, new claim 6, and claims 7-10 are also believed to allowable in addition to claims 1-5.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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